(b) No representation has been received from the fertilizer industry in this regard.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Selling prices of essential commodities

†1296. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drastic differences are being found in the consumer selling price of foodgrains during the period from 1st June to 15 July, in the years 2004 and 2005;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the differences in consumer selling prices of wheat, paddy, millet, maize, mustard oil and sugar, etc. prevail and the causes of rise in the prices of the said foodgrains in 2005 in comparison to 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) On comparing the retail prices in respect of foodgrains,no drastic differences have been noticed at the major centres during the period 1st June to 15th July in 2004 and 2005, except for increase in prices of pulses.

(c) The differences in the average retail prices for the months of January to July, 2005 in comparison with the corresponding period in 2004 in respect of wheat, rice, gram dal, tur dal and mustard oil have been in the range of 3 paise to Rs. 3.06 per kg, whereas for sugar it has been to the extent of Rs. 5.13 per kg. The rise is mainly due to increase in their minimum support price (MSP), decline in sugarcane production, hike in cost of inputs and transportation etc.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.